

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying incoming calls, comprising:
responsive to detecting an incoming call received from a telecommunication service provider network, determining caller identification information associated with the incoming call without allowing an audible indicator of the incoming call to sound;
comparing the caller identification information associated with the incoming call with caller identification information for allowable calling parties;
capturing the caller identification information;
responsive to determining a match between the caller identification information associated with the incoming call and caller identification information for an allowable calling party, allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound; and
retransmitting the caller identification information immediately after allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound.
2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1,
wherein the caller identification information includes calling line identification data,
wherein the step of determining caller identification information occurs at a customer premises location; and
wherein the step of allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound further comprises:
identifying a communications device at a customer equipment premises location within a plurality of communications devices at the customer equipment premises location to which the incoming call should be routed, and
passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 2,
wherein the incoming call is received at the customer equipment premises location over an incoming single line, and
wherein the step of passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device further comprises passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device without passing the ring signals associated with the incoming call to another communications device within the plurality of communications devices.
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1,
wherein the incoming call is received at a customer equipment premises location, and
wherein the method further comprises responsive to determining no match between the caller identification information associated with the incoming call and caller identification information for an allowable calling party, passing the incoming call to an answering system device at the customer equipment premises location without allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
responsive to the identified communications device being lifted off hook after the ring signals are passed to the identified communications device, maintaining a connection of the incoming call to the identified communications device;
wherein the caller identification information includes calling line identification data;
wherein the identified communications device is a caller ID capable communications device;
wherein the step of determining the caller identification information includes receiving calling line identification data between a first pair of bursts sent by the telecommunication service provider network; and
wherein the step of retransmitting the caller identification information includes reframing the received calling line identification data and retransmitting the calling line identification data between a second pair of bursts sent by the telecommunication service provider to thereby allow

a user of the identified caller ID capable communications device to use automated incoming call screening without losing caller ID capability.

6-19. (Cancelled)

20-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) ~~The method of Claim 20,~~ A method of identifying incoming calls, comprising:

responsive to detecting an incoming call received from a telecommunication service provider network, determining the presence of wherein the caller identification information includes including calling line identification data; associated with the incoming call without allowing an audible indicator of the incoming call to sound, wherein the determining step includes including receiving calling line identification data between a first pair of bursts;

selecting a default mode when there is not any caller identification information associated with the incoming call, the default mode selectively controlled by a user; and

handling the call in accordance with the selected default mode wherein the handling step includes including retransmitting the calling line identification data between a second pair of bursts when there is caller identification information associated with the incoming call matching caller identification information for an allowable calling party to thereby allow a user of a caller ID capable communications device to use automated incoming call screening without losing caller ID capability.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A method of ~~Claim 27, further comprising identifying incoming calls, the method comprising:~~

~~receiving the an incoming call prior to the step of determining and;~~

~~determining caller identification information associated with the incoming call received at a customer equipment premises location;~~

~~allowing an audible indicator at the customer equipment premises location to sound responsive to the caller identification information being associated with a pre-selected allowable calling party;~~

~~retransmitting the caller identification information after allowing the audible indicator to sound;~~

~~passing the incoming call to an answering system at the customer equipment premises location through a selected one of a plurality of answering system device ports without allowing the audible indicator to sound responsive to the caller identification information not being associated with a preselected calling party; and~~

~~if no caller identification information is determined:~~

~~selecting a default mode selectively controlled by a user, and~~

~~handling the incoming call in accordance with the default mode.~~

29. (Previously presented) A method of Claim 28, further comprising visually indicating to a user of the answering system for each separate incoming call the presence of each separate incoming call when being received.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ ~~claim-1~~, further comprising the steps of, allowing an incoming caller to enter an override code on a touch tone decoder; comparing the override code to a pre-determined changeable programmed code; and responsive to determining the override code and pre-determined changeable programmed code matches, allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound.